To: Yelensky, Erica[Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov]; Ziegler, Sam[Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov]
From: Karina Johnston
Sent: Tue 9/26/2017 3:48:51 PM
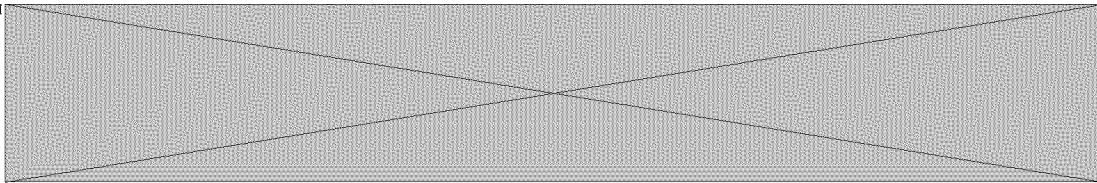**Subject:** Fwd: Draft EIS/EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Released

Hi Erica and Sam! Just in case you didn't receive this yesterday afternoon, please see below for a notice of the release of the Ballona DEIR/DEIS!

Karina Johnston
Director of Watershed Programs
The Bay Foundation

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Bay Foundation <info@santamonicabay.org>
Date: September 25, 2017 at 5:51:57 PM PDT
To: kjohnston@santamonicabay.org
Subject: Draft EIS/EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Released
Reply-To: info@santamonicabay.org

September 25, 2017

Draft EIS/EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Released!

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, has spent years working with the public and envisioning a plan for the revitalization of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER). The Ballona Wetlands were once an over 2,000-acre expanse of marshes, mud flats, salt pans, and sand dunes that stretched from Playa del Rey to Venice and inland to the Baldwin Hills. Today, the BWER is less than 600 acres of open space now owned and managed by CDFW.

The remaining lands have been heavily impacted over many decades. A once-meandering Ballona Creek was cemented into a straight, concrete channel nearly 100 years ago. Most of the wetlands - once home to abundant fish and waterfowl - were dredged and filled in to build Marina del Rey in the 1960s. Invasive plants or weeds have also taken over much of the Reserve. See http://ballonarestoration.org for more information.

CDFW, as the state lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is coordinating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. CDFW is partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers, the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Together they produce a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) / Draft EIR.

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Website

CDFW is now soliciting comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. Click on CDFW's website for Draft EIS/EIR information: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR. Also linked is the formal
Notice of Availability from CDFW (PDF).
To view the Draft EIS/EIR, click here.
Send written comments via regular mail or e-mail to:

Email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

Richard Brody, CDFW
c/o ESA (jas)
550 Kearney Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, California, 94108
Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR with appendices, and including copies of the reference materials relied on in the Draft EIS/EIR, will be available for public review during normal working hours at the following locations:

* Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90094
* County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA 90292
* Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester-Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W Manchester Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90045
* California State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-2530

CDFW requests that written comments be provided at the earliest possible date. The public comment period is expected to be 60 days and end at 5:00 p.m. on November 24, 2017. In addition, one public hearing, where verbal and written comments will be accepted, is scheduled as follows:

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Place: Burton Chase Park - Community Center
        13650 Mindanao Way

CDFW will review all public comments received during the review period and provide written responses in a Final EIS/EIR. The Final EIS/EIR will be made available to the public and will provide a basis for decision-making by permitting authorities.

The Bay Foundation, P.O. Box 13336, Los Angeles, CA 90013